

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 15, line 7 of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

In accordance with this WLAN embodiment, when the vehicle is within a close and predictable distance, for instance limited by the length of the hose 418, and at a predictable orientation, for instance based on the vehicle's fuel receptacle 430, the WLAN can be optimized to use short-range transmissions and directional antennas to reduce interference and contention from other nearby vehicles or refueling stations when transferring data to or from the vehicle via the WLAN radios. Such contention issues may be a significant problem with a high-density of WLAN nodes, such as would be typically found in a motor pool full of vehicles all trying to simultaneously exchange information. Since the data communication controller 120 230 initiates communication with a single vehicle waiting at the pump, the possibility of communication contention is greatly reduced and information download or upload time is thereby reduced.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 15, line 19 of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

To optimize the WLAN embodiment described above, the data communications controller 120 230 may instruct WLAN device 160 communications element 414 to transmit initial signals at a relatively high power and thus longer range, perhaps providing a range of ten of feet. Once communications with the identified vehicle is established, the data communications controller 120 230 may then instruct WLAN device 160 communications element 414 to transmit additional signals, including data signals to or from the vehicle, at a reduced power with a corresponding reduction in range to a few feet and a corresponding reduction in interference. Alternatively, the data communications controller 120 230 may instruct WLAN device 160 communications element 414 to transmit the initial signals using several antennas (~~one of which may be the antenna associated with communications element 414~~) to provide for omni-directional or hemispherical coverage. Once communications with the identified vehicle is established, the data communications controller 120 230 may then instruct

~~WLAN device 160 ecommunications element 414 to select a single antenna, for instance the one associated with communications element 414, to transmit the additional signals, including data signals to or from the vehicle.~~

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 16, line 5 of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

FIG. 6 illustrates a system 200 for data transfer to or from a vehicle in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention. In this embodiment, the primary service function being performed on the vehicle is refueling. System 200 includes similar elements to those comprising system 200 of FIG. 2. System 200 of FIG. 6 may include a communications network element 240 that resides on a fixed network infrastructure and that is coupled to one or more data repositories, a data communications controller 230, a first communications element (not shown) that may be coupled to a fuel nozzle 224 of a refueling system 220, a second communications element (not shown) that may be coupled to a vehicle 210, and a WLAN device access point 250. Similarly to system 200 in FIG. 2, system 200 of FIG. 6 functions in accordance with the flow diagram illustrated in FIG. 3 and described above in detail.